

Appl. No. 09/816,644
Amdt. Dated December 22, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 16, 2004

Attorney Docket No. 81784.0229
Customer No.: 26021

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1, 7 and 10 are being amended to improve their form. No new matter is involved.

In paragraph 5 which begins on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 7 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential elements. There then follows a listings of the essential elements said to be omitted from claims 1, 7 and 10. In paragraph 6 on page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 7, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particular point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1, 7 and 10 are said to be confusing and not to clearly point out the invention.

In response to these rejections, Applicant is amending claims 1, 7 and 10 to add the essential elements enumerated in paragraph 5 of the Office Action and to correct the recitations in the manner suggested in the paragraph.

As so amended, claims 1, 7 and 10 are submitted to be complete and definite and in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph.

The previous rejection of the claims on prior art was not repeated in the final Office Action of August 16, 2004. Therefore, because the alleged informalities in the claims have been corrected, it is believed that the claims are in condition for allowance.

The amendments to claims 1, 7 and 10 are in compliance with the suggestions made in the Office Action and were necessitated in order to avoid the rejections on formal grounds. Therefore, entry of the amendments under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 as placing the application in condition for allowance or alternatively in better form for appeal, and reconsideration and allowance in view thereof, are respectfully requested.

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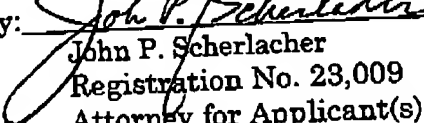
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If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6846 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: December 22, 2004

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